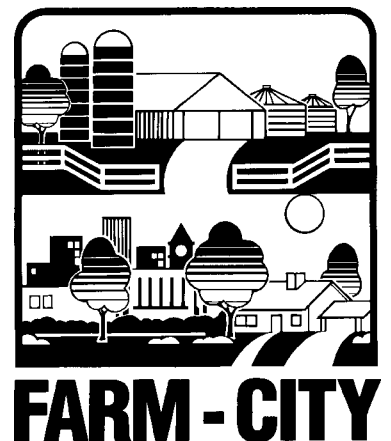


**Tips, tools
and ideas
for
organizing
a
successful,
local
farm-city
program**



Parking

Parking needs are different depending on the type of event you are sponsoring. If your program is going to be held in the city, there is probably adequate street or lot parking available. The same is probably true in a city or county park. Once you take your event to the farm, parking becomes a serious concern.

- Coordinate your event with your host farm family such that a newly harvested hay field is available near the main Farm-City activity site and can be used for parking. An ideal is to have this parking area downwind so as not to have dust from cars blowing into the activity center.
- You will need clearly marked and highly visible signs indicating the location for parking. Here you might draw upon a 4-H or other youth group to coordinate parking, actually directing drivers where they should park their vehicles. For safety reasons, make sure there adult supervision.
- If the parking area is located some distance from the main event, you may need tractors and wagons to transport individuals to and from the farm. Steps will be needed in the parking lot for loading/unloading as well as at the farm for loading/unloading. In addition to individuals assisting with parking, two people should help with the steps. Be sure to caution people about remaining seated on the wagons and to watch their heads when getting on and off.

If the parking is located at the main event, people will be able to walk back and forth on their own.

Suggestion: Use orange construction fence wherever needed along ditches or as a border for the parking lot to funnel visitors towards the registration booth and welcoming area.

- An area for handicapped individuals is appreciated by those folks with special needs. You might arrange to have a “Gator” or golf cart on hand to transport senior citizens, persons with young children, or anyone needing help to and from the parking area. Walkie-talkies greatly help in this area if the parking lot representative has one and person running the gator has one.
- Road control is needed only if special conditions exist. You should not be anxious to have volunteers on the road, but if needed, check with the local or county police for thoughts on traffic control and see if they will help control or direct traffic.